

Bruce Bulletin

Bruce County
Genealogical Society
Box 1083, Port Elgin, ON
N0H 2C0

<https://brucecountygenealogicalsociety.ca/>



Volume 31, Issue 3
August 2020
ISSN 1184-7387

Letter from the President, Glenys Johnson

Dear Members,

I don't have to tell any of you what a weird year this has been. From isolation to take-out only. From online shopping to home-made masks and social distancing. From horrific numbers of people seriously ill to loved ones lost. I pray you have all remained safe and well.

The Bruce County Genealogical Society delights in presenting events in the Bruce County Museum and Cultural Centre Theatre but not in 2020. Like so many organizations we were forced by the Pandemic to find alternative ways of reaching out to you. We hosted a very successful Webinar in March with Kathryn Lake Hogan so we set to work bringing more webinars your way in the coming months. We have hosted one every month since including July. I hope you have had time to Zoom in. If not you have missed out on some very interesting presentations right from the comfort of your own home.

We are taking a break for August but will be back in the fall with three more very informative webinars. You will want to keep your eyes out for an email from Lolly Fullerton encouraging you to register.

September 14, 2020 - Jane McNamara will discuss Life on the Farm -Your ancestor's place in Ontario agriculture: Webinar at 7 p.m.

October 12, 2020 - Amy Johnson Crow will present her Desperately Seeking Susan: Webinar at 7 p.m.

Glenys Johnson
President

Contents

	Page
Letter from the President.	1
A Basket of Memories.	2/3
My Ancestor was...Green Twice. . . .	3/5
Query.	5
A Gift from Helen Wuerth.	6
News from the Bruce County Archives.	7/8
BCGS Information.	8

A Basket of Memories

submitted by Mary MacKay

A few weeks ago a friend gave me a basket of apples. They weren't just any apples. They were from the only tree in their orchard that survived the killing frost back in April 1934. This also was the only tree in their orchard still living that was planted by the pioneer Maher family that settled on their farm. That pioneer family wasn't even her ancestors but they were mine. My grandmother grew up on that farm. She wasn't born there. She actually was born in Newmarket Ontario, and was less than a year old when her parents, William and Matilda Maher, and two older brothers came to Paisley in 1865.

My grandmother, Harriet Anna Maher was 12 years old when her father gave up his cabinet making business in Paisley and moved to the farm on the 4th of Elderslie right next St. Andrews Cemetery. By then Harriet had four more siblings, Mattie 9, Frank 7, Samuel 5, and Tillie 2.

I took a long look at the basket of apples and decided to make apple sauce. That's likely what my grandmother did many times. As I sat peeling each apple questions about my grandmother popped into my mind. It's a mystery who Harriet was named after. It was not her mother's mother because Harriet's grandmother was Matilda Frances King. We don't know the name of her father's mother because no record of his birth has been found.

The name Harriet is pronounced **HARE-ee-ett** and is of old German origin, which does not fit with her Irish heritage. Harriet also can be the feminine form of Harry,

from Henry or an informal version of Henrietta. Neither clue fits with her family ancestry.

In her father's will he called her Anna but her family and friends called her *Hattie*. I wondered why her father only left her \$250 in his will but to each of her other siblings he left \$500. And why was her husband Patrick McCurdy, the executor? Why not one of her brothers?

I chose another apple. I wonder if Harriet ever went to school with all those babies at home to help care for? She must have gone to school before they left Paisley. The old one-room log building had been replaced by a two-room brick building which opened in 1867. But it's for certain she never went to the country school that her siblings did. She was 14 when another baby sister, Agnes Mary (who I knew of as *Aunt Minnie*) was born and 20 when her youngest brother, Albert was born.

I chose the smallest apple in the basket next. It reminded me of Hattie. Like her mother she was only five feet tall but was strong willed and quick tongued and became an efficient manager. The meaning of Harriet is "home ruler" which suited her roll in later life.

As the number of apples in the basket depleted I thought about the age of my grandmother when she got married. Harriet was courted by Patrick McCurdy for many years. He was a tall shy man thirteen years her senior. Any pictures I've seen of him he had a full beard which made him look older than he really was. Why did it take so long for them to finally get married? Early in the courtship Harriet had resolved that no house was big enough for two strong willed

ladies so marriage was put off until after Patrick's mother died.

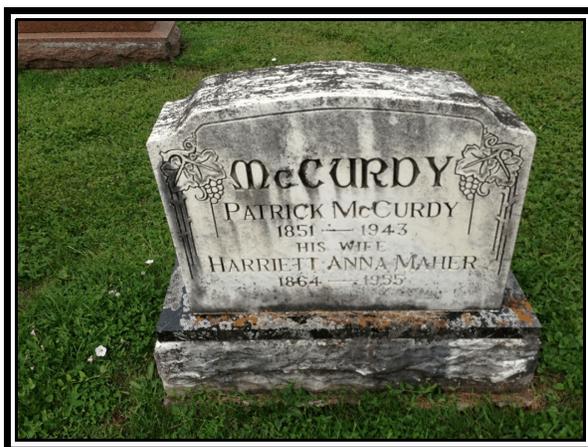
So it was eleven days before Hattie's 35th birthday when she married Patrick McCurdy. Their marriage registration records his age as 45 but my research says he was 47 years 9 months. Was Patrick embarrassed about his age or did he simply not remember? Another thing about their marriage record that puzzles me is the spelling of Patrick's signature. Patrick had an e between the t and the r making it Paterick . That I could accept but the spelling of McCurdy is not even close! I made a copy of it and it looks more like **McClororay**. I don't think Patrick ever went to school in Ireland and I know he didn't go to school after they came to Elderslie. In those days there were very few times when a man needed to sign his name. Maybe he wasn't sure of the spelling!

When Hattie got married she went to live in the McCurdy homestead on lot 9 Concession 1 Elderslie. In this red brick house lived three men; her husband, Patrick; his brother Thomas a 42 year old bachelor who continued to live in this house the rest of his life; and Patrick's father, John who was 92. Harriet cared for them all especially John who became senile and deaf before his death ten years later at almost 103 years of age. **Note: his tombstone says 104. I've often wondered who made that mistake. Not Harriet I'm sure!**

Harriet handled the finances and read the Globe every night to the three men in the McCurdy house. How do I know it was the Globe? The Globe was known to be Conservative! So were the McCurdys. Staunch Conservatives!

Harriet became not only the homemaker but also the money-manager, crop-adviser and organizer for these three gentlemen and she did it well. Marrying at such a late age, Harriet was fortunate to have two healthy baby boys, my father, George and his older brother, Ivor. Harriet and Patrick both lived to be 91 so I guess that makes me lucky, too.

The apples are all peeled and on the stove cooking. Thank you Grandma Harriet for the basket of memories and thank you, Evelyn for the basket of apples.



My Ancestor WasGreen Twice *submitted by Anne Judd*

Ann Browning was born in 1824 in Chalford, Gloucester, England, the daughter of William Browning and Hannah Green, so you might say she had Green blood in her.

About 1842, she married Andrew Davis, a boatman. Certainly, at least one Davis family operated narrow boats on the Gloucester and Yorkshire canals of the pre-railway era. Did Ann live aboard, keeping house as the boat carried its cargo of coal, timber, or clay for pottery? Did she

watch the 'green and pleasant' scenery as she hung laundry from the butty? Did she scramble out to swing lock gates, even when pregnant? We do not know, but these questions inspire intriguing images and someday, perhaps, a canal-boat trip.

Ann and Andrew had four daughters and two sons. We know that George, Rebecca, Delilah, and Rose Anna came eventually to Canada. While still in England, Rose Anna married Fred Gray; their daughter was Jane Anne [do you see a pattern here?]. After Fred's death, Rose Anna, then thirty, married eighteen-year-old Ephraim Browning Sutton, of Yorkshire, the son of Samuel Sutton and Elizabeth Browning, Ann's sister. [Yes, the couple were first cousins.] Together they had three children, all of whom died while very young in the 1870s. The first was born prematurely, and the other two died after receiving smallpox vaccine.

Saddened and angry, the couple decided to leave England and start fresh in Canada. Ephraim had worked as a railway agent; his brother George Henry as a painter and paperer...not necessarily skills useful in the free grant lands of Muskoka. Rose Anna and Jane Anne would travel with them.

Ann, now a widow, must have felt her opportunities would improve if she, too, emigrated. What did she see in her future if she stayed? How could she have known what she would face in Canada? Perhaps she had a strong sense of adventure, or a resistance to the restricted role of widows in 1880s England.

Leaving in the early summer of 1881, they set off aboard a 125-foot steamer SS THAMES of London. They

made their way to Toronto, then to Muskoka, Ephraim and Rose Anna taking up lakefront land in Medora Township where they cleared some bush and started a summer resort. This venture was somewhat successful, but the bush, the bugs, and the boredom of winter pushed them into the town of Bala, where they opened a store and later founded a hotel—the first brick summer resort in Muskoka—which is still operating in the twenty-first century. Ephraim wrote news and opinion columns for local papers, composed poetry signed "Muskoka Bard" and songs published as sheet music. His writeups of family weddings show the flowery writing style of the Victorian/Edwardian era.

George Sutton and Jane Anne Gray stayed in Toronto for a couple of years, each apparently able to support him/herself. They married in 1883, and followed Ephraim and Rose Anna to Muskoka. Do you think it complicated the family tree, having a mother and daughter married to two brothers?

After a year in the bush, George and Jenny moved to Port Carling, where they raised three daughters and three sons. Their second-eldest daughter, Anne Mabel, married in 1905 Charles John Duke. Mabel and Charlie were my grandparents on my father's side.

Meanwhile, Ann Browning Davis met a widower who had a prospering farm. In one of the less rocky, flat areas of Monck Township, Bardsville was a thriving agricultural settlement.

Among these farming families was Edward Green. The story handed down says that he was the coachman of a wealthy family in England, who eloped with their daughter. Disowned, they stayed in England long enough to have three sons,

then came to Canada. They may have settled first near Orangeville, then moved to land in Monck. Bearing their sixth son, Elenor Elizabeth Green died. Some sources say the baby, named Sydney Albert Green, was raised by another family.

Two years later, Ann dropped a decade and a half from her age and married Edward Green, becoming mother to George, Herbert, Ernest, Arthur, and William. Bill grew up knowing her as his 'only mother'. She was present his marriage at Port Carling to Gertrude Alice Duke, a sister of my grandad, Charles John. Here is a second link in the Sutton/Duke connection.

Ann's sister, Eliza, and Samuel Sutton also lived for a time in Muskoka. Eliza, a nurse, died in 1896 and was buried in Port Carling cemetery.

Ann Browning Davis Green lived until 1911. A photograph from 1906 shows her holding her great-great-grandson, Claude Sutton Duke. With them are Ann's daughter Rose Anna, Ann's granddaughter Jane Anne (Jenny), and her great-granddaughter Anne Mabel, the baby's mother. Ann lived to see other great-great-grandchildren as well: Anne Mabel's second son, Audrey Harold [my father], Leila's sons Lionel and Beverley among them. All these families lived in Port Carling.

As far as I know, no one has investigated any possible connection between Edward Green (Ann's second husband) and the family of her mother, Hannah Green. Even if there is none, Ann was, in a sense, twice Green.



Anne Browning Davis Green

QUERY

KNIGHT, William and **KNIGHT Mary** Bryant (nee **Wickett**). Emigrated from Cornwall, England to Ontario Canada circa September 1845. At some point between June 1862 and April 1866, the Knight family relocated from Pilkington Twp to Brant Twp, Bruce County and William purchased $\frac{3}{4}$ acre of land on Concession 5/Lot 1 near Dunkeld. Family histories suggest that William KNIGHT died in Brant Twp on 19 Oct 1869; and that Mary Bryant Knight (nee Wickett) died in Brant Twp 27 Nov 1878 but I have not been able to verify these dates. Question: Can members help me find whether these death dates are accurate, and where William and Mary Bryant are buried. Please contact Kaye Schofield, Sydney, Australia. kaye.schofield@gmail.com

Here is a link to a website of "Colonial Occupations":

<http://sites.rootsweb.com/%7Erigenweb/ocupaton.html>

A Gift from Helen Wuerth



It has now been over a year since Helen Wuerth passed away on the 17th of July, 2019 at the age of ninety. The Bruce County Genealogical Society has recently received

a donation from her estate for \$10,000. We are very grateful to Helen and her family for this generous gift.

Helen Wuerth was one of our first members, and she joined the Bruce County Genealogical Society in 1989. She was a keen volunteer from the beginning. In 2004, she was awarded a 15 year Ontario Volunteer Award, and received subsequent awards as the years passed. She was in charge of publication sales for the Society for many years, and was also our mail secretary. Every year she volunteered at the BCGS table at the Bruce County Museum during Family Day Events. She also volunteered every August at our display at the Bruce Heritage Farm and Steam Show in Paisley. She often volunteered in the Research Room of the Bruce County Archives, helping visiting researchers trace their family roots.

Helen was born in Branchton, Waterloo

County, and married Fred Wuerth at the Branchton United Church on 7 Sep 1957. Helen came with her husband Fred and young family to Port Elgin in 1964. Helen was a Medical Laboratory Technologist and helped set up the laboratory at the Southampton Hospital in 1966. Helen was an avid rug hooker, and left her family many beautiful rugs to remember her by. Helen enjoyed lawn bowling and curling for over forty years. She loved to swim at the Port Elgin beach, travel, and research her family history.

Helen was survived by her daughter Amy MacKinnon (and Larry Price), her son Ross (and Monique), five grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Write us

We are looking for your story... send us a paragraph or more on "My ancestor was a...." Could be an occupation, an event, a surprise... Send your story (and a photo if possible) for publication in our quarterly Newsletter - Bruce Bulletin to smoulton@bmts.com. We'd love to hear from you.

If you have any old scrapbooks full of newspaper clippings the Bruce County Genealogy Society clippers would be happy to copy the articles and return the scrapbooks to you. BCGS accepts "pre 1950" Bruce County newspaper clippings of births, marriages, deaths for their surname collection.

Shirley Moulton has been the Newsletter Editor for 14 years! She'd like to pass this task on to a willing soul. Fortunately she is taking on the role of Director for the Bruce County Genealogical Society. So, we are not losing her willingness, ideas, and expertise. Thank you so much Shirley! You have been a fabulous editor and we are so glad you are staying on.

Would you like to help produce a newsletter for us? YOU don't need to live in Bruce County to do this! Members send in articles. The newsletter goes out four times a year. Please contact Glenys Johnson at glenysjohnson07@gmail.com or Shirley Moulton at smoulton@bmts.com if you are interested. Shirley is willing to do the November newsletter and help guide you.



News from the Bruce County Archives

Deb Sturdevant, Archivist

Sue Schlorff, Archival Assistant

Heather Callaghan, Archival Assistant

Chronicling Community Experiences: COVID-19

In the spirit of documenting this moment in time, the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre (BCM&CC) is inviting individuals, families, businesses and organizations to help us capture and preserve local experiences as we all respond to this evolving situation and cope with the pandemic's impact in Bruce County. Everyone's experiences are an important part of our shared history. The Museum is collecting this material as a record of the pandemic in our communities and as a resource for future exhibition or display and use by researchers for many years to come.

Those with Bruce County connections, whether full-time or seasonal residents or visitors to the area during this time, are asked to share stories, journals or images about how their lives have changed, how they are dealing with disruptions in their daily routines, changes to their sources of income, and how the closure of, or changes to, businesses, schools, churches, and other institutions have affected their lives, organizations or businesses.

The "Chronicling Community Experiences: COVID-19" web page brucemuseum.ca/shareyourstory provides more information about the project, suggestions for submissions, and an opportunity to submit materials online or, when the Museum re-opens, by mail or in person. You may also read excerpts from some of the stories shared to date.

We have received some submissions from high school students, a university student, traveller, and individuals sharing their experiences related to self-isolation and

social distancing, including home projects and reflections on the impact of the pandemic. We welcome additional submissions from all age ranges and experiences, as well as businesses and organizations! Feel free to contact Archivist Deb Sturdevant with any questions about submissions or the donation process: dsturdevant@brucecounty.on.ca; Direct Line: 226-909-2426.

What about this time would you like to share with future generations?

Online Exploration

Discover additional information about the BCM&CC, through our website brucemuseum.ca, [Facebook page](#) and [Online Collections](#).

The Bruce County Archives is part of the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre, 33 Victoria Street, Southampton, Ontario, 519-797-2080.



Bruce County Genealogical Society- 2019

E-mail: brucecgs@yahoo.ca
<https://brucecountygenealogicalsociety.ca/>

Executive

President:	Glenys Johnson
Vice President:	Diane Huber
Secretary:	David MacRae
Assistant:	Sylvia Hasbury
Treasurer:	Anne Goeden
Membership Secretary:	Anne Goeden
Past President:	Doug Lennox
Director:	Don Meyer

Committees

Mail Secretary:	Helen Browning
Cemetery Co-ordinator:	Lolly Fullerton
Library Co-ordinator:	Cecile Lockrey
Research Co-ordinator:	Sylvia Hasbury
Newsletter Editor:	Shirley Moulton
Newsletter Assistant:	Mary MacKay
Webmaster:	Louise Stewart
E-mail Correspondent:	Anne Goeden
Publication Co-ordinator:	Bill Stewart
Publicity:	David MacRae
Clipping Collection:	Volunteers
Cards:	Judy MacKinnon

Newsletter

The newsletter is published quarterly: February, May, August, November. Articles of interest may be submitted for inclusion and should give credit to the original source.

Newsletter Editor: Shirley Moulton
763 Brentwood Dr.
Port Elgin, ON
N0H 2C4
(519) 832-3206
E-mail: smoulton@bmts.com